THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) The work of gauge conversion of Nainpur-Jabalpur is in progress as part of the sanctioned Gondia-Jabalpur (including Balaghat-Katangi) gauge conversion project. An outlay of Rs. 60 crore has been proposed for this work in the Budget 2007-08. An updating survey for conversion of Nainpur-Chhindwara (*via* Seoni) (140 Kms) meter gauge line into broad gauge has been included in the Budget 2007-08. No timeframe for approval/taking up of this project is feasible to be given. The proposal would be further processed based on the results of the survey.

Plan to boost export

1313. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways and its PSUs have drawn out a plan for boosting exports under India's neighbourhood; and

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the foreign market to be tapped up and locomotives, coaches and other items of Indian manufacture in respect of which export potential is intended to be tapped up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes Sir, IRCON International Ltd. and RITES Ltd. are exporting rolling stock to neighbouring countries. Container Corporation of India (CONCOR) and Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd. (RVNL) are strengthening corridors to hinterland to provide better port connectivity to boost exports.

(b) IRCON is running meter gauge diesel/electrical locomotives on a lease cum maintenance contract to Malaysia since 1963. The State Railway of Thailand (SRT) had shown interest in the concept of leasing-cum-maintenance contract and a trial is scheduled to be held in March, 2007 for running of IRCON locomotives in Thailand.

RITES has plans to tap export potential for locomotives, coaches and other items of Indian manufacture in neighbouring countries. Details are given below:

* Export of diesel locomotives, wagons, crew rest vans and Diesel Multiple Units (DMUs) to Sri Lanka for proposed rehabilitation of Coastal Railway line.

* To compete for export of locomotives and coaches to Bangladesh against global tenders expected to be floated shortly against funding by multi-lateral financing agencies.

* RITES is following up on a proposal to supply in-service diesel locomotives and coaches to Myanmar for which preparatory work has commenced.

* RITES has already submitted a proposal for leasing of diesel locomotives to Pakistan and also plans to participate in their future tenders for purchase of diesel locomotives and coaches.

Anti-Collision-Device (ACD) patented by Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd. is under trial on Northeast Frontier Railway. After successful conclusion of these trials, Konkan Railway intends to explore foreign market for the export of this device.

Density of rail traffic

†1314. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the density of traffic between Sawai Madhopur and Nagda on the Delhi-Mumbai route of the Western Railway;

(b) whether introduction of new passenger train on the said route is not found to be possible due to excessive traffic density on the said section; and

(c) whether the Railways would consider the said section to be upgraded into four lane?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The density of traffic between Sawai Madhopur and Nagda section is as under:

Section	Percentage Capacity utilisation (With Maintenance Block)
Nagda-Kota	115.2
Kota-Gurla	172.2
Gurla-Sawai Madhopur	139.4

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.